

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Inventor: Oliver Breuer

Title: *Clamping Gadget For Shoelaces Or The Like Lacing Devices*

Serial No.: 10/581,288

Filing Date: June 1, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims :

Before claim 1 on page 10 insert --I claim:--

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-16, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

17. (New) A clamping device for a shoelace, comprising:

a base having an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the shoelace;

a movable slider partially received in the cavity of the base, the slider movable between a first clamping position wherein the shoelace is captured between the slider and the inner surface of the base and a second, non-clamping position wherein the shoelace may be drawn through the cavity; and

a protrusion extending from the slider and engageable with the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position.

18. (New) The clamping device of claim 17 further comprising a biasing structure for urging the slider towards the clamping position.

19. (New) The clamping device of claim 18 wherein the biasing structure includes a helical compression spring mounted between the base and the slider.

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20. (New) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the inner surface of the base includes a cogged portion for engagement with the shoelace with the slider in the clamping position.

21. (New) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the slider includes an outer surface having a cogged portion, the cogged portion of the outer surface of the slider engaging the shoelace with the slider in the clamping position.

22. (New) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the base includes a baseplate for attaching the clamping device to a shoe.

23. (New) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the slider includes a lever for facilitating the movement of slider from the clamping position to the non-clamping position.

24. (New) A clamping device for a shoelace, comprising:

a base defining a cavity and having a first and second cogged surfaces;

a movable slider partially received in the cavity of the base and having first and second cogged surfaces, the slider movable between a first clamping position and a second, non-clamping position;

wherein:

the first cogged surface of the slider and the first cogged surface of the base define a first passageway for receiving a first portion of the shoelace therethrough;

the second cogged surface of the slider and the second cogged surface of the base define a second passageway for receiving a second portion of the shoelace therethrough.

the first portion of the shoelace is clamped within the first passageway with the slider in the clamping position; and

the second portion of the shoelace is clamped within the second passageway with the slider in the clamping position.

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25. (New) The clamping device of claim 24 further comprising a protrusion extending from the slider and engageable with the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position.

26. (New) The clamping device of claim 24 further comprising a biasing structure for urging the slider towards the clamping position.

27. (New) The clamping device of claim 24 wherein the base includes a baseplate for attaching the clamping device to a shoe.

28. (New) The clamping device of claim 24 wherein the slider includes a lever for facilitating the movement of slider from the clamping position to the non-clamping position..

29. (New) A shoe, comprising:

a shoelace for maintaining the shoe on a foot of a wearer, the shoelace having first and second ends; and

a clamping device for securing the shoelace at a used desired location, the clamping device including:

a base having an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the shoelace;

a movable slider partially received in the cavity of the base, the slider movable between a first clamping position wherein the shoelace is captured between the slider and the inner surface of the base and a second, non-clamping position wherein the shoelace may be drawn through the cavity; and

a protrusion extending from the slider and engageable with the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position.

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30. (New) The shoe of claim 29 wherein first and second ends of the shoelace are interconnected to define a loop so as to permit handling of the shoelace with a single finger.

31. (New) The shoe of claim 30 further comprising a handle overlapping the first and second ends of the shoelace.

32. (New) The shoe of claim 31 further comprising a body and an elastic band operatively connected to the body and the handle, the elastic band urging the shoelace and the handle toward the body.

33. (New) The shoe of claim 32 further comprising a band guide for receiving the elastic band and guiding the movement thereof.

34. (New) The shoe of claim 33 wherein the body includes a receiving channel affixed thereto and wherein the elastic band is guided through the receiving channel.

35. (New) The shoe of claim 29 further comprising a tongue and wherein the base include a baseplate operatively connected to the tongue.

36. (New) The shoe of claim 29 wherein the base includes a clip for operatively connecting the clamping device to the tongue.